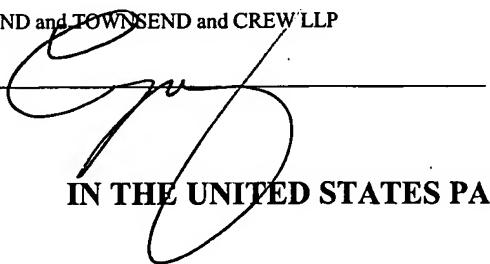


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TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: 

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Naoto Matsunami et al.

Application No.: 10/004,131

Filed: October 30, 2001

For: STORAGE SYSTEM HAVING A PLURALITY OF CONTROLLERS

Customer No.: 20350

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Amendment is with submission of a Request for Continued Examination [RCE] under 37 C.F.R. 1.114 for the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE –
EXAMINING GROUP 2182**

PATENT

Attorney Docket No.: 26869T-001000US
Client Ref. No.: 340100096 US02